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LATVIA FARMER PREPARING HIS FLAX FOR MARKET

Ireland buys much flax from the Baltic States (see Bulletin No. 1).

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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Tallinn, New Name for Esthonian Capital

REVAL, the capital of Esthonia, has a new official name. Conforming with the wishes of the government and people of Esthonia, the United States Geographic Board announces, Reval from now on is to be called Tallinn. This name, like Oslo, the new name for Christiania in Norway, has a link with the city's early history.

Tallinn is a sprightly city, a music-loving city, a progressive and up-to-date city. Just before the World War this city completed a magnificent opera house, built entirely by contributions of the people. The Esths are not witty or demonstrative—their virtues are the sturdy patience and hardy endurance of the North countries—but even the peasants can improvise verse and narrate legends by the hour over their black bread and weak tea. Neither has Esthonia been accounted a literary nation, but one prodigious compiler has collected 45,000 Esthonian songs, 8,000 tales, 52,000 proverbs and 40,000 riddles, not to mention 60,000 superstitions! And another collection embodies more than 13,000 folk melodies.

The Vikings of the Baltic

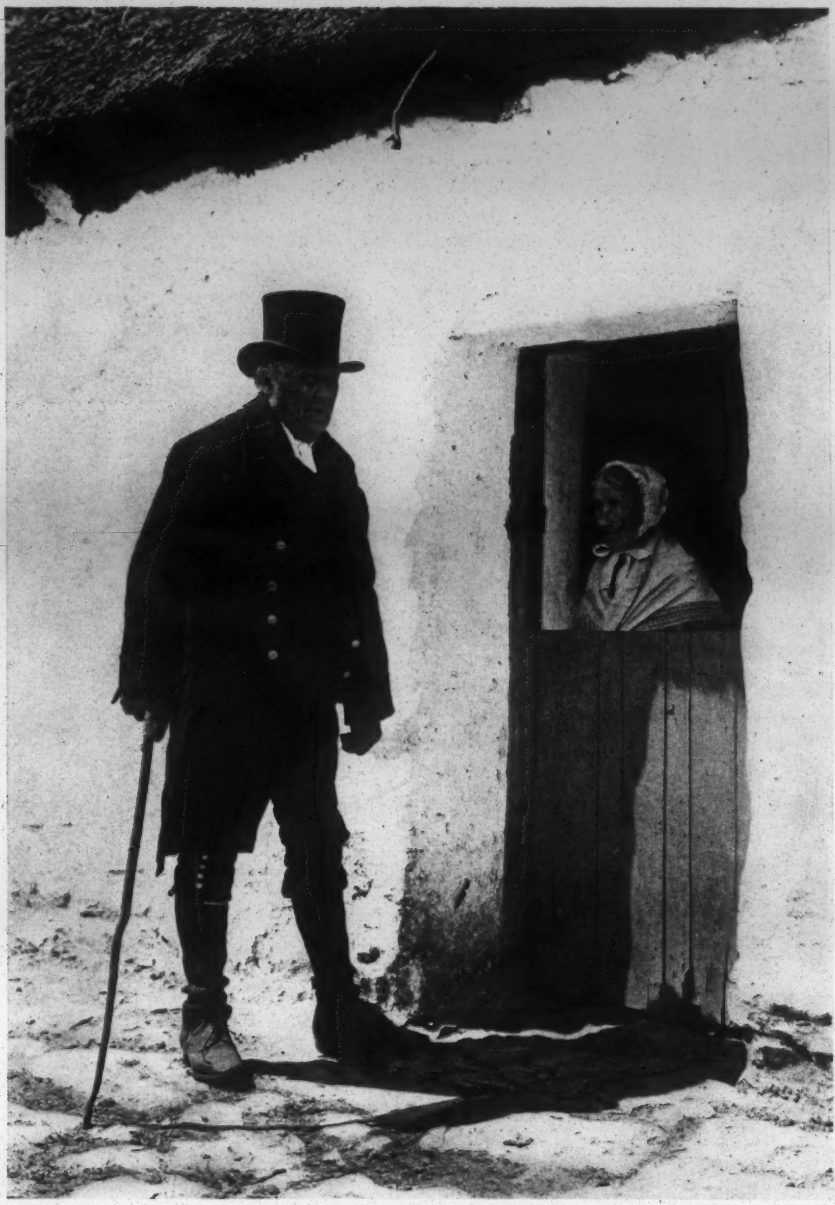
Once the Esths were the Vikings of the Baltic, hardy and adventurous, terrifying the Danes and the Swedes with their piracy. They retain today their love of sea faring, which, keyed to the demands of modern shipping, makes Tallinn, despite its one ice-bound month, a port of growing business. The capital has more than ten per cent of the country's population of some 1,110,000 people.

Neat little trolley cars cruise through crooked streets from the modern shipping district of the lower city, past crumbling churches and ancient castles. Commerce has not crowded out reminders of the days when the Hanseatic merchant, proud Dane, Swedish conqueror and Russian assailant successively held sway. Out in a suburb is a chateau, and its environing park, which Peter the Great built for his wife, a former housekeeper of a Lutheran pastor and later Empress in her own right.

Legend of Danish Flag

In the days when the Danes were the Romans of the North, Tallinn's history began. The Danish flag of today commemorates a legend of a mighty battle near Tallinn. The Danes lost their banner, so the story runs, and were exceedingly hard-pressed. Suddenly from heaven fell a red banner with a white cross and around this insignia the Danes rallied to a decisive victory.

Tallinn has the only medieval Gothic city hall remaining in the Baltic countries. Its venerable palace, a memorial of the thirteenth century, now is an official residence. Visitors may ascend its tower for a good view of the harbor where Russia's men-of-war used to ride. Another hall contains rooms of the Blackhead Society, a "national guard" formed by merchants of the fourteenth century.



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AN IRISHMAN OF THE OLD SCHOOL

Although he speaks the English language, the Irishman remains a typical Celt—typical in habit of mind, in disposition, character, and to a degree in personal appearance. The River Shannon is the dividing line between west Ireland, which is distinctly Gaelic, and east Ireland, which has been affected more by England (see Bulletin No. 5).

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Asbestos: A Mineral Smooth as Silk Which Weaves Like Wool

MINING the "missing link" between rocks and plants is the job that a French Canadian town of 12,000 does for a waiting world. Asbestos justifies in many ways the nickname given it by the men who blast it out of Nature's rock vaults for it is a physical paradox even if it cannot bridge the gap separating the boulder and the sapling.

Asbestos can be woven like cotton and wool; in the natural state it looks like spun glass in bundles, it is as smooth as silk to touch. Like the volatile heroes of Chinese myths it is now a roof, changes to theater curtain or a coat, becomes paper, or imprisons live steam to hard labor, prevents thousands of automobile crashes every day and may hide itself in the rustle of a silk dress.

Most of World Supply Comes from One Town

Thetford Mines, 75 miles directly south of Quebec, is cradled in a valley whose ridges are out-riders of Vermont's presiding glory, the Green Mountains. Travelers on the main highway south from Quebec to the United States easily recognize Thetford Mines, or its little sister town of Black Lake, because a pall of white asbestos dust hangs over both. This cloud obscures the great dumps of rock refuse, veritable foothills or plateaus themselves, and the gleaming towers of the typically large French Canadian churches. Travelers may have difficulty understanding Thetford's people though, because, save for the English mine managers, they are as French as Gascons.

Asbestos is one of the few non-metallic minerals of great use to mankind; its partners are coal and sulphur. Although it is frequent in the serpentine rock from Gaspé to the Carolinas and elsewhere, the deposits near Thetford Mines supply more than 80 per cent of the world's asbestos needs.

Stand two books on end and pile a handful of matches between them with the matches at right angles to the walls supplied by the books. There you have an approximation of the manner in which the glassy-green natural asbestos occurs in rock. The bundle varies in width from a thread to three, four, and five inches, in unusual samples.

Can be Carded, Spun and Woven

In the whole amazing range of crystals of various substances with the perfect pyramiding, sectoring and cutting found in Nature, no crystals are probably more remarkable than asbestos. Imagine a smokestack 1,000 feet high. This approximates the proportions of an asbestos fiber crystal. Now if the smokestack will bend like a willow in the wind and stretch like a stiff spring; if it can resist terrific heat, and be impervious to practically all acids, oxygen and moisture, it can do what the marvelous asbestos crystal does. If one takes a block of asbestos and rubs the crystal bundles lengthwise a fluff of white fiber will spring up as if by magic. These fibers can be carded, spun and woven into cloth with almost the same facility as raw cotton or wool.

Roman nobles and even Charlemagne liked a few parlor tricks with their dessert. To set the mouths of their guests agape then nonchalantly threw table cloths into charcoal burners. But visitors who dashed for the exits must

Commerce Centers in Cattle and Wood Pulp

Geography was kinder to Tallinn than to Esthonia as a whole. A splendid harbor, recently enlarged, invites the world's largest ships to moor there. The whole of Esthonia is a plain, elevated slightly, with a soil partly so sandy that it cannot be cultivated at all and partly pure clay which often is impassable. The moist atmosphere is good for grass but bad for grain. Consequently Esthonia's chief industries center about cattle from its grazing areas and wood pulp from its forests. Potatoes are grown in plenty, and potato spirits are distilled. Leather, cement, furniture and paper are manufactured, and Narva uses water power to weave cotton.

The present government of Esthonia, which resisted the communist attack, places the power in the hands of the people who elect a legislative assembly of 100 members, chosen by proportional representation.

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SLOVAK EMBROIDERY WORKERS IN DETTVA

The women of Czechoslovakia show a keen appreciation of beautiful needlework. They draw their own designs freehand. Czechoslovakian embroidery, beads and many other products are now well known to American purchasers (see Bulletin No. 3).

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Austria-Hungary Once More a Possibility

A PLAN is reported to be under way looking toward financial union of Austria and Hungary.

Exactly what happened to Austria-Hungary in the treaties after the war and what now composes the nations carved from its territory is summarized as follows:

Before the World War, the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary had an area of 260,000 square miles and a population of 50,000,000. The area of Austria proper was 134,000 square miles, with a population of 29,000,000. By the treaty of St. Germain, the Austrian republic became an impoverished state of 32,000 square miles (smaller than the State of Maine), with a population not exceeding 6,500,000, nearly a third of whom were crowded into the destitute capital, Vienna.

Only One Plebiscite

The only plebiscite district provided for in the St. Germain treaty was that of the Klagenfurt district, which lies on the border of Croatia, now a part of the new Serb-Croat-Slovene State. By a substantial majority, the inhabitants voted to remain with Austria.

By its loss of Transylvania, with 22,000 square miles and nearly 3,000,000 inhabitants, to Rumania; of Croatia, Slavonia, Dalmatia and portions of Banat to Yugoslavia; and of some 25,000 square miles and 3,500,000 inhabitants in Slovakia to Czechoslovakia, Hungary was reduced from 125,000 square miles and more than 20,000,000 subjects to 36,000 square miles, with 8,000,000 people.

Extending like a gigantic wedge nearly 600 miles long and 150 miles broad at its widest part, the new republic of Czechoslovakia stretches from eastern Germany to northwestern Rumania—a corridor nation of central Europe. It is composed of three closely related racial elements—the Czechs, the Moravians and the Slovaks—and the unrelated Ruthenians.

Czechoslovakia Larger Than Austria

The Czechs (Bohemians) to the west, girded about by a natural frontier of mountains which separates them from the Germans, are joined to the Slovakians, whose home is to the south of the Carpathian Mountains, by the land of the Moravians. Moravia is a plain through which passes the great central European route between the Adriatic and the Baltic. Ruthenia occupies the point of this wedge.

In population and area the new republic roughly approximates our States of New York, New Jersey and Delaware combined (54,000 square miles). Of its people, some 5,000,000 are Bohemians, 3,000,000 are Slovaks, 2,000,000 are Moravians, more than 2,500,000 are Germans.

Free State of Fiume Ceases

Leaving the land of the Czechoslovaks, the eye travels southward across the twin-born republics of Austria and Hungary to the Yugoslav (south Slav) kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, built up of groups of south Slavic peoples, among which the Serbians are most numerous.

The Free State of Fiume after a time ceased to be free. It failed to work

have come back to wonder, for the cloths did not burn; they were asbestos. Modern use of asbestos dates from the development of Italian mines in the beautiful Alpine valleys of Susa, approached from France through the Mont Cenis tunnel, and the Aosta Valley. One of its first important applications, packing for engines, still creates one of the principal demands.

Also Mined in Italy and South Africa

Italian asbestos occurs lengthwise of the vein, instead of in bundles, and is of different mineral history. An asbestos from South Africa shows still different properties, so the term asbestos must be regarded as an inclusive term referring to a variety of minerals of chemical similarity, much as coal may be anthracite, bituminous or lignite. Appropriately, the Greek father of our word asbestos means "indestructible."

At Thetford Mines pit operation is the general practice, although there are a few galleries. Any rock with veins running six per cent asbestos is worth working and as the rocks are fairly uniform in quality the pits go very deep. Standing on the edge of the deepest working one can see men like ants toiling in the shadow 350 feet below. Following the best mining practice blasting occurs at noon and at 5.30 o'clock in the afternoon. The pit crew breaks the pieces into parts small enough for the crushers and loads them into baskets which rise skyward and disappear over the cliff.

Rock with fine veins goes to the crushers to be reduced to small bits. Rock with rich veins is cracked open by hand and the virgin asbestos sent to a big room where girls wield hammers to break the asbestos into a pliable fibrous mass. No mechanical means has been discovered to make the high grade asbestos which is used for brake bands (the largest present demand for asbestos), cloth, best packing and insulating.

Many Uses for Asbestos

The crushed serpentine rock and asbestos go to a series of screens surmounted by suction tubes. The tubes pneumatically remove the fibers and grade them. Poorer grades of asbestos are used for paper, roofing, asbestos paint, and for weighting silk. They provide pipe coverings to conserve heat, soles and spats on shoes for men working on hot floors, and supply guards to protect glass-blowers. The United States last year imported nearly $7,000,000 worth of raw asbestos.

If the Constitution of the United States were written today, it would probably be inscribed on indestructible asbestos paper. The world, however, is still waiting for a fireproof ink.

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The Eskimo Dog, Hero of the North

THE ESKIMO DOGS, which helped Peary discover the North Pole, have scored another heralded service to mankind in the thrilling race over Alaskan snow for 650 miles, from Nenana to Nome, with antitoxin to check the diphtheria scourge.

"Huskies" and "Malamutes," used in the race against death, are two of many breeds of that useful animal, the Eskimo dog.

All Eskimo dogs are strong, wolflike, self-reliant, with straight, strong legs, solid body, and massive head; even of jaw, keen of eye and ear, and well equipped by nature for the life they lead among their nomadic masters. They have the pricked ears, deep-furred necks, dense water-proof coats, well-furred feet, and gaily carried tails of all the northern Asiatic dogs, and are represented by similar dogs across northern Lapland, Russia, and Siberia.

No Set Standards

There is no set standard for Eskimo dogs, and nowadays one must go very far into the Arctic to find the packs pure and uncontaminated with the blood of the white man's dogs; for the best huskie is the strongest, most willing, and obedient dog, whatever his lineage, and these qualities have been increased through the introduction of such strains as the Newfoundland, Dane, Shepherd dog, and others of less pure but equally civilized blood.

There are a good many names for the Eskimo dogs and a good many types, as their range covers a stretch of country some 4,000 miles long and 1,500 miles wide. It is therefore easily understandable that the dog of the Aleutians and Alaska should present quite a different appearance from that of Hudson Bay or Greenland.

The typical Alaskan "huskie" is generally black or dark, with white and buff markings. The "Malamute" is a "masked" dog, that is, his white marked face is framed in the black mask of dark fur at the top of his head and ears.

Dogs Give a Clue to Geography

The North Greenland Eskimo Dog shows the light color so prevalent among the dogs of the extreme north on both continents, and the marked depth and breadth of muzzle. This seems to be a characteristic of many Asiatic dogs, the Chow and Tibetan mastiff notably, and may point to an Asiatic connection with Greenland via the Polar ice or across Arctic America. There is a heavy, pale buff, deep-jawed dog found along the Arctic coast of America from the eastern to the western extent of land.

Polaris, one of the finest living specimens of the North Greenland Eskimo Dog, weighed about 100 pounds, but looked much larger, owing to his wonderful coat, which at its best measured nine inches long on the shoulder. The hair of the tail was 12½ inches long. He took to the sledge and to the pack-saddle without any training whatever, and pulled a sledge three miles through deep snow the first time he was put in harness.

satisfactorily, so, on January 27, 1924, Yugoslavia ceded her interest in the city to Italy in exchange for Baros.

By the terms of the Rapallo agreement the Dalmatian coast and islands became a part of the new state of Yugoslavia, with the exception of the town of Zara and two or three islands, the most important of which are Cherso and Lagosta, allotted to Italy.

Carved Out by Many Treaties

Yugoslavia's domain has been affected by a larger number of treaties following the World War than any other state of Europe. By the Austrian peace treaty Carniola and Dalmatia were acquired; by the Hungarian treaty the provinces of Croatia and Slavonia and part of Banat, and by the treaty with Bulgaria three small areas, including Tsaribrod and Strumitsa, were added. Austria and Hungary jointly surrendered the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, over which the former emperor-king had extended his sovereignty in 1908.

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A DOFFER GIRL IN A COTTON MILL

This young lady takes the bobbins from the spinning frame as they become full of yarn. Asbestos fluff can be spun like cotton now. Finest grades of the mineral are woven for brake bands (see Bulletin No. 2).

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Famine Stalks Where the River Shannon Flows

WHERE the River Shannon flows famine stalks because the potato crop failed. The western counties of Ireland are suffering worst, according to reports, and it is this district which is drained largely by the much hymned Shannon and its tributaries. The Shannon has known famine before, years when thousands who did not flee to America died of want, and it has known war and much of beauty.

Statistically speaking, the Shannon is the largest and longest river in the new Irish Free State. It measures 240 miles in length and is 8 miles wide at its mouth.

From Loop Head and Kerry Head, the twin capes at its entrance to the sea, it is navigable for all classes of ships for 36 miles, or up to its junction with the Fergus River and a considerable world navy might be hidden within its estuary, which in some places widens out to ten miles. Once, many years ago, the town of Limerick, at the head of navigation on the Shannon, had fond aspirations of being the greatest port in Ireland because ships from America could sail up the river and dock at her wharves, but a turn in affairs of the island caused the city to wither away, and now few boats except excursion steamers and pleasure craft drop their gangplanks along Limerick's water front.

Dividing Line in Ireland

Down through Lough Allen, near the northwestern coast of Ireland out into the central portion of the country and back again to the southwest, the river flows, measuring off a portion of land very similar in shape to Wales, about the same size and in a corresponding location with reference to Ireland that Wales bears to England. It has been canalized and made navigable for small vessels as far as Lough Allen near its source; the Grand and Royal canals connect it with Dublin, the Ulster Canal with Belfast. Its volume is obtained from a basin of 4,544 square miles.

Historically speaking, it has for a thousand or more years been the dividing line between eastern Ireland, which was overrun at various times by the Danes and the English, and western Ireland, which is Irish through and through and where Gaelic is still the language of the people.

There is an Athlone and It Has a Ford

But the beautiful fertile valley, with its green, calm, lush meadows seems fitter for a more peaceful life than history has hitherto accorded it. The Danes pushed their boats up to the head of navigation at Limerick in the ninth century, and managed to throw a bridge across the river. This was almost the only way of getting across the river barrier with the exception of the ford at Athlone just below Lough Ree.

Brian Boru led his forces against the Danes and drove them out after a struggle which romantically colors the pages of Irish history, but the Normans came just a little while later, took Limerick and erected a great round-towered castle from which they might clinch their hold upon the country. Scarcely a century passed that did not know bloody struggles along the peaceful river. Edward

Polaris Proved His Mettle

He was finally presented to Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, and celebrated his arrival in Labrador by whipping every other dog in sight.

The Samoyed is a compact, staunch little sledge dog, used by the Samoyeds, a seminomadic race living in northeastern Russia and Siberia. These people keep herds of reindeer, and some of the dogs are used in rounding up and driving these animals, much as collies are used in caring for sheep and cattle.

In appearance the Samoyed is between a white spitz dog and a white Eskimo; in character he is one of the very finest of dogs. He is of medium size; weighing about 40 pounds.

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NOME, ALASKA, HAS ITS DOG RACES

The dog in the center is a Malamute distinguished by his "masked" face. But breeds count for little among Eskimo dogs; it is the dog with the keenest intelligence, the most willing spirit and best endurance that wins man's favor (see Bulletin No. 4).

Bruce captured the Norman castle in 1316, and Hugh O'Neill held it for six months against one of the greatest of Cromwell's generals. The venerable old castle, with its great drumlike towers and walls ten feet thick, stands by the river-side today.

The "Utopia of Irish Anglers"

The portion of the river just above Limerick is known as the most beautiful, and has been dubbed by happy fishermen the "Utopia of Irish anglers." Its salmon and trout fishing are famous enough to make devotees remember with pleasure the hours they spent at Carrick-on-Shannon, Athlone, Killaloe, or Castleconnel.

Dainty shamrock blooms and other flowers nod their pretty heads by the side of the Shannon's foaming weirs and its bawling rapids. They give a colorful background to stories concerning the fairies who still play pranks upon the inhabitants in its vicinity, the miraculous cures of the numerous holy wells, and the potency of the wishing wells near its banks.

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Many requests for the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

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